

### **Alan H. Bridle explanatory text to accompany "Water Musick" program, 23 January 2023**

I realized that there was no date on the "Water Musick" program that I included in my "Cambridge" collection, but I remembered that it was close to the 250th anniversary of the original performance, so I took a look in my Cambridge diary (not part of what I am giving to the NRAO) where I tracked it down to Tuesday July 18th 1967- so it was about as close to the actual 250th anniversary of the original performance as could be scheduled at the time.

"The Barge" was a former cargo barge of a design very common on the English canal system, which had for some years been used as a residence by Ann (nee Neville) Gower and aboard which she hosted a weekly "War on Want" Lunch of bread and cheese, soup and libations for which attendees (who also brought food or drink to it) would pay her a small amount, the excess of which over her cost was donated to charity.

Thursday lunch on the Barge was a regular event for Cambridge radio astronomers and their friends - and one of its ongoing side issues was the occasional need to patch leaks to ensure that the Barge did not sink. (There had been some close calls.)

The "Water Musick" was a major occasion for the Barge because it had to be moved, for the first time in years, up the River Cam a couple of kilometers from where it was usually tied up as Ann's residence to Stourbridge Common where there was room for an audience and a supply of cider from a nearby pub. Not only did this move require firing up the ancient engine, for which several mechanically able radio astronomers were enlisted, but there was some apprehension over whether the Barge could remain watertight under the vibration as it was self-propelled. In the end both engine and water seals performed well enough for the "historic" concert to go off without incident. I wish now that I had kept a list of the attendees.

Jim and Ann Gower left Cambridge around the same time as me, when Jim took up a faculty position at U.B.C. in Vancouver. He later left radio astronomy and went into oceanography, and they moved to Victoria, where Ann ultimately got a faculty position at U.Vic.

Among the performers on this occasion were Judy Bailey, who had worked closely with Martin Ryle and Ann Gower on the computational side of earth-rotation aperture synthesis (there is a bio of her at { [HYPERLINK "https://www.cam.ac.uk/news/judith-ann-bailey-20-may-1934-6-may-2008" }](https://www.cam.ac.uk/news/judith-ann-bailey-20-may-1934-6-may-2008) } and Paul Scott (then a junior member of the observatory staff who had worked on the 4C survey). Paul is still alive and listed as a "visitor" on the Mullard Group's web page.)

The conductor, Robin Sharp, was a nuclear physics Ph.D. student with whom I shared a house rental in Cambridge after my return from the DRAO in 1966. He was an accomplished oboe player and a friend of the radio astronomers.